

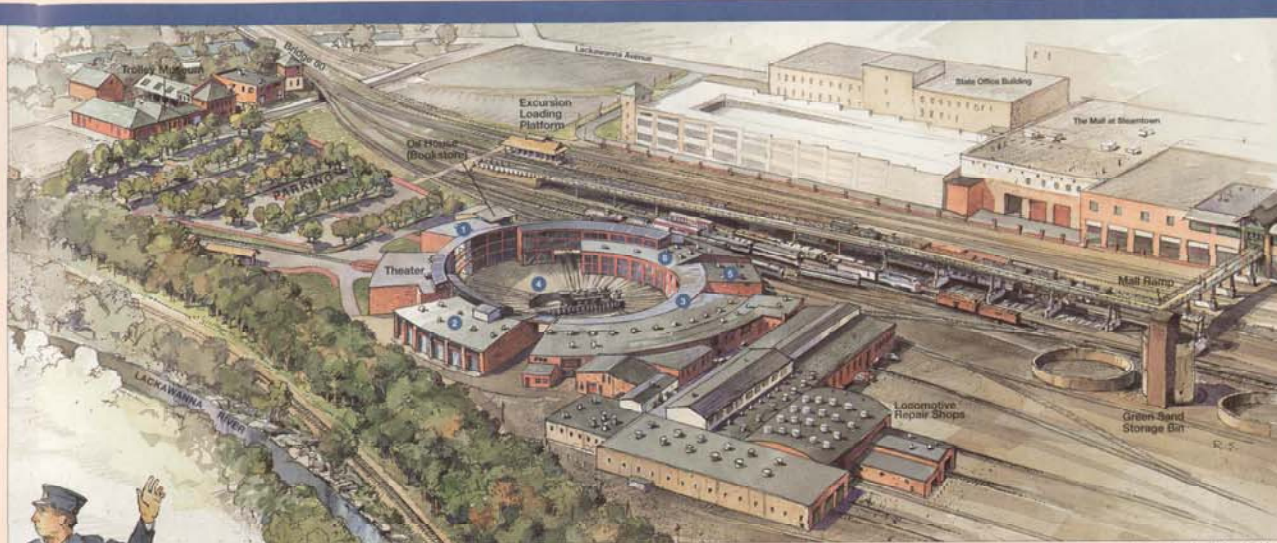


The romantic image that steam railroading evokes is reflected in George Inness's painting entitled "The Lackawanna Valley" (above), showing Scranton and the Delaware, Lackawanna and

Western railroad yard in 1855. Right: a 1920 rail pass and the corporate seal of the Leggett's Gap Railroad, a forerunner of the DL&W. Note the original spelling of the rail line's name.



At Steamtown, engineers not only help to maintain their engines in top condition but demonstrate for visitors the knowledge and skill it took to operate a steam locomotive.



Illustrations by Richard Schlecht

## Welcome to Steamtown

You are about to experience a part of American railroading that hasn't existed for nearly half a century—the era of the steam locomotive. Steamtown National Historic Site was established on October 30, 1986, to further public understanding and appreciation of the role steam railroading played in the development of the United States. It is the only place in the National Park System where the story of steam railroading, and the people who made it possible, is told.

Steamtown occupies about 40 acres of the Scranton railroad yard of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, one of the earliest rail lines in northeastern Pennsylvania. At the heart of the park is the large collection of standard-gauge steam locomotives and freight and passenger cars that New England seafood processor F. Nelson Blount assembled in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1984, 17 years after Blount's untimely death, the Steamtown Foundation for the Preservation of Steam and Railroad Americana, Inc., brought the collection to Scranton, where it occupied the former DL&W yard. When Steamtown National

Historic Site was created, the yard and the collection became part of the National Park Service.

The Steamtown Collection consists of locomotives, freight cars, passenger cars, and maintenance-of-way equipment from several historic railroads. The locomotives range in size from a tiny industrial switcher engine built in 1937 by the H. K. Porter Company for the Bullard Company, to a huge Union Pacific Big Boy built in 1941 by the American Locomotive Company (Alco). The oldest locomotive is a freight engine built by Alco in 1903 for the Chicago Union Transfer Railway Company.



A conductor and his passengers, circa 1930s.

Steamtown National Historic Site is located at the intersection of Lackawanna and Cliff avenues in downtown Scranton. It is accessible from the north and south via I-81, from the east via I-84 and I-380, and from the west via I-80. The Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike also provides convenient north-south access. The park is open daily. It is closed on Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1.

The park includes the following points of interest, keyed to the illustration above. Other points are labeled on the illustration.

**1 Visitor Center** Begin your visit here for orientation to the park, its facilities, and its attractions.

**2 History Museum** Exhibits here highlight the people and the history of steam railroading in the United States and include displays on early railroads, life on the railroad, and the relationship between the railroad and labor, business, and government. A timeline presents key moments in the history of railroading and the DL&W from the early 19th to the mid-20th century.

**3 Roundhouse** This remaining portion of the 1902/1937 roundhouse has been rehabilitated and

is used to store, maintain, and display engines from the Steamtown collection. A raised walkway affords opportunities to view work in progress on the locomotives.

**4 Turntable** This 90-foot diameter turntable, used for turning engines toward the roundhouse, is the type used here after 1900.

**5 1902 Roundhouse Section** This three-bay portion remains from the second roundhouse, built on this site in 1902.

**6 Technology Museum** This museum offers a look at the technological changes and advances in rail

roads through the years. Included are exhibits on steam locomotive design, railroad architecture, track design and engineering, signals, communications, and railroad safety. A model of DL&W's Scranton yard is located on the second floor.

**Tours and excursions** Park rangers offer tours of the site, roundhouse, and locomotive repair shops. On certain days, rail excursions are offered, including a main line train ride or a trip to the nearby historic Scranton Iron Furnaces or the 1912 passenger station (now a hotel). Check at the visitor center for schedules. A fee is charged for the excursion and museums.

**For Your Safety** Remember, Steamtown is a working railroad site, so please be careful. Look out for moving trains and other vehicles at all times. Avoid stepping on the rails and do not climb on the locomotives and cars.

**For More information** Steamtown National Historic Site 150 South Washington Avenue Scranton, PA 18503-2018 888-693-9391 [www.nps.gov/stea](http://www.nps.gov/stea) on the Internet. Visit the National Park Service website at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

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